New action plan on sugar

1254. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar produced in each of the last three years and the current year also the sugar imported, if any, in the same years;

(b) the estimated sugar consumption per capita and also the estimated total requirement of sugar during the last three years, the current year and the ensuing year;

(c) the average sugar prices in February of each year 1988, 1989 and 1990 and also in October, 1989;

(d) the amount of sugarcane price arrears during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(e) whether Government propose to formulate any New Action Plan to eliminate (i) sugarcane price arrears; (ii) sugar shortage; and also to bring down the sugar prices to the minimum?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The information is as under:—

Sugar Year (October to September)	Production (Lakh tonnes)	Imports (Lakh tonnes)	Internal consumption (Lakh tonnes)	Per Capita consumption Kg./person.
1986-87	85.02	9.51	87.75	11.4
1987-88	91.10	0.71	93.33	11.7
1988 89 (Prov.)	87.52	—	99.19	12.1
1989 90 (upto 28-2-90)	63.37	2.42	41.05	..

The sugar consumption for the season 1989-90 is estimated to be about 102 lakh tonnes. The consumption may go up by about 3—5 per cent during the 1990-91 season.

(c) The retail prices of sugar in the five principal markets of Delhi, Kanpur, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras have been as under:—

Year	Range of retail prices (Rs./kg.)
February, 88	Rs. 6.25 to Rs. 6.90
February, 89	Rs. 6.20 to Rs. 7.50
February, 90	Rs. 8.00 to Rs. 9.10
October, 89	Rs. 8.70 to Rs. 10.50

(d) The amount of cane price arrears as on 15th February during the current season and the earlier season have been as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Season	Position as on	Total price payable	Total price paid	Arrears	%age of arrears
1989-90	15-2-90	1737.92	1442.45	295.47	17.0
1988-89	15-2-89	1263.28	1043.28	220.00	17.4
1987-88	15-2-88	1176.47	984.63	191.84	16.3
1986-87	15-2-87	1037.22	884.37	152.85	14.7

(e) Government have already initiated various short term as also long-term measures in this regard. These are as under:—

(i) State Governments/Chief Ministers have been advised to ensure prompt payment of cane price arrears to growers.

(ii) The Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for the season 1989-90 was increased from Rs. 19.50 to Rs. 22.00 per quintal.

(iii) Advance announcement of Statutory minimum price for 1990-91 at Rs. 23.00 per quintal of sugarcane.

(iv) Incentive in the form of additional freesale quota to the sugar factories for undertaking early and late crushing for the current 1989.90 season.

(v) Incentive in the form of additional freesale quota to such sugar factories which are required to transport sugarcane from outside their reserved areas on the orders of the State Government.

(vi) Licensing of adequate capacity for setting up of new sugar factories and the expansion of the existing capacities.

(vii) Financial assistance on Soft Term basis from the Sugar Development Fund for development of sugarcane in the reserved areas of the sugar factories and also for undertaking expansion-cum-modernisation of the existing sugar factories.

(viii) Incentive Scheme for new factories as also the factories which are undertaking expansion upto the minimum economic size, *i.e.* upto 2500 TCD.

(ix) Adequate availability of sugar is being maintained through monthly releases of freesale sugar to keep the prices at reasonable levels.

Disadvantage of economic dependence faced by women

1255. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether economic dependence is a major disadvantage being faced by Indian women; if so, what are the measures envisaged to eliminate it; and

(b) the statewise details of the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.